Foreign Trade Position

1661. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's foreign trade position has shown a significant improvement during the 1985-86, especially in exports;

(b) if so, to what extent the situation has improved resulting in a decline in the balance of trade deficit; and

(c) what are the main contributory factors for the same and the steps taken by Government to further improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) The provisional figures of India's foreign trade during 1985-86 (updated upto December, 1986) place exports at Rs. 11011.96 crores which were 6.2 per cent lower than the export figures of Rs. 11743.68 crores in the year 1984-85. At the same time India's imports during 1985 86 at Rs. 19759.43 crores were 15.3 per cent higher as compared with the level of Rs. 17134.20 crores during 1984-85. As a result India's balance of trade deficit increased from Rs. 5390.52 crores during 1984-85 to Rs. 8747.47 crores in 1985-86. Apart from the international economic sitiuation; an important factor contributing to the decline in overall exports during 1985-86 was the virtual stoppage of exports of crude oil. While export of crude oil during 1985-86 was only Rs. 135.15 crores it amounted to Rs. 1563.16 crores during 1984-85. The provisional export data revealed that non-crude oil exports at Rs. 10876.81 crores in 1985 registered an increase of 6.8 per cent as compared to Rs. 10180.52 crores during 1984-85. Besides, for many of our important export commodities such as jute manufactures, tea, coffee, and marine products, there was a significant decline in the unit value realsation.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal year (1986-87) India's exports showed an increase of 17.3 per cent over the corresponding period of last year; and imports showed a marginal increase of 2.3 per cent. As a result, the trade deficit declined by Rs. 1000.45 crores during the first nine months of 1986-87 compared to the corresponding period of last year.

A series of initiatives have been taken by the Government to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make the exports profitable. Simultaneously the Government has also initiated a series of steps to promote efficient import substitution, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Revamping of Export Promotion Councils

1662. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether help has been sought from the Indian Institute of Management for revamping the working of Export Promotion Councils, now monopolised by IAS Officers who are totally unsuited and untrained for the jobs; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) In order to make the Councils more result oriented, a meeting of the Chairmen of all the Export Promotion Councils was held in the first week of February, 1987. The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad has also been asked to undertake a study of the Working of the Export Promotion Councils to make them effective instruments of promoting exports.

Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

1663. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of income and expenditure under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what are the details of schemes currently in progress for the welfare of beedi workers; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in setting up of a hospital for beedi workers in Gursahai Ganj, Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The details of income and expenditure under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund during the last three years, year-wise, are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Income	Expenditure
1983-84 . .	417.25	179.97
1984-85 . .	406.03	209.21
1985-86 . .	311.13	266.60

(b) Schemes relating to provision of medical, housing, educational and recreational facilities are currently being implemented for the welfare of the beedi workers.

(c) No administrative and financial sanction has been issued for the construction of hospital at Gursahai Ganj.

1664. [*Transferred to the 19th March, 1987.*]

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Correcting the replies given in the Rajya Sabha on (i) the 13th November, 1986 to unstarred Question 1059 regarding increase in suicide cases in Delhi and on (ii) the 4th December, 1986 to unstarred Question 3130 regarding suicides committed in metropolitan cities

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table statements (in English and Hindi) correcting the replies given in the Rajya Sabha on:

(i) the 18th November, 1986, to Unstarred Question 1059 regarding increase in suicide cases in Delhi.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-3910/87].

(ii) the 4th December, 1986, to Unstarred Question 3130 regarding suicides committed in metropolitan cities.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-3911/87].

I regret the error.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1985-86) of the Overseas Construction Council of India Bombay and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Bombay, for the year 1985-86, together with the Auditors' Report on the Acounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Council.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-3864/87 for (i) to (iii)].

I. Report and Accounts (1985-86) of the National Safety council Bombay and related papers.

II. Industrial Disputes (Central) Amendment Rules, 1987.

III. Emigration (Amendment) Rules, 1987.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Fifteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Safety Council, Bombay, for the year 1985-86, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.